

**NONDISCRIMINATION IN FEDERALLY-CONDUCTED
AND FEDERALLY-ASSISTED (EXTERNAL) PROGRAMS**

- 1. PURPOSE:** This change to Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Directive 99-043, Nondiscrimination in Federally-Conducted and Federally-Assisted (External Programs), incorporates reprisal/retaliation as a basis to file allegations of discrimination. **NOTE:** *VHA Directive 99-043 provides guidance to process allegations of discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, sex, and handicap.*
- 2. POLICY:** It is the policy of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) that no one shall be subjected to any form of discrimination in any and all VHA programs, or in programs receiving VA funding, or in any VA program receiving Federal financial assistance.
- 3. ACTION:** Include reprisal/retaliation as basis to process allegations of discrimination under the External Program for Civil Rights Discrimination Complaints.
- 4. FOLLOW-UP RESPONSIBILITY:** The Director, Management Support Office (10A2E), is responsible for the contents of this Directive.
- 5. RESCISSIONS:** This VHA Directive and Change 1 expire September 30, 2004.

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